

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of a glycated protein contained in a glycated protein-containing sample, characterized by the method comprising treating the sample with a protease to thereby release free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine peptide or fructosyl amino acid,

causing reacting an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine peptide or fructosyl amino acid to act specifically on with the released fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 to produce a product, [[and]]

measuring the resultant product of the reacting at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0; and correlating the measuring of the product to the presence or level of glycated protein in the sample.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2, wherein the glycated protein is a glycated hemoglobin.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim claims 2 or 3, wherein the protease is derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, *Aspergillus*, or *Streptomyces*, or is obtained from a gene of the microorganism through a gene recombination technology.

Claims 5 and 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 claim~~
~~2, wherein the enzyme for assaying fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid fructosyl valine~~
~~or fructosyl valylhistidine is a fructosyl peptide oxidase.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 claim~~
~~2, wherein the product is hydrogen peroxide.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A reagent for assaying glycated protein with reduced effect of a fructosyl lysine compound, which ~~contains~~ comprises at least (A) a protease, (B) an oxidase which specifically acts on ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine~~ at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 to thereby produce hydrogen peroxide, and (C) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine in a sample fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid, characterized by the method comprising causing at least the following (A) to (C) to act on fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 after the sample has been reacted with a protease to release free fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine; and correlating a product resulting from the action of (A) to (C) to the presence of absence of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine in the sample:

(A) an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid,

- (B) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide, and
- (C) a glucosone-oxidizing and decomposing enzyme.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for reducing effect of a fructosyl lysine compound in assay of glycated protein contained in a sample, ~~characterized by the method comprising treating the sample with a protease to thereby release fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine, and causing at least the following (A) to (C) to act on the released fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine at a pH of 4.0 to 7.0 and correlating a product resulting from the action of (A) to (C) to the presence of absence of a glycated protein in the sample:~~

- (A) an enzyme for assaying fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine,
- (B) a reagent for measuring hydrogen peroxide, and
- (C) a glucosone-oxidizing and decomposing enzyme.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein the glycated protein is a glycated hemoglobin.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~claim claims~~ 11 or 12, wherein the protease is ~~derived~~ from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, *Aspergillus*, or *Streptomyces*, or is obtained from a gene of the microorganism through a gene recombination technology.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 15~~, wherein the enzyme for assaying ~~fructosyl peptide or fructosyl amino acid~~ ~~fructosyl valine or fructosyl valylhistidine~~ is a fructosyl peptide oxidase.